

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
Division of Fruits and Vegetables

SUMMARY OF WESTERN AND CENTRAL NEW YORK ONION DEAL
SEASON 1923-24

SUMMARY BY C. L. BROWN

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Market reports on Onions were issued from the Rochester office
September 28, 1923 - March 1, 1924.

It is seldom that a season opens with so much promise and closes so unsatisfactorily as the 1923-24 onion season. At the beginning of the season the crop looked fine and reports of short crops and poor quality in all of the important producing sections which compete actively with New York State naturally caused growers and shippers to look for good returns. Prices to growers started at moderate levels but began to work up rapidly until some stock was sold at \$1.70 to \$1.75 per bushel in comparison with an opening price of \$1.00 to \$1.25 per bushel. Shippers bought and stored heavily as a large percentage of the growers were willing to sell at the remunerative prices offered. However, some of the growers, and this included some of the larger growers, held their own stock.

Early shipments were heavy from New York because of the active early market, and partly because mush stock was rolled to storage. September proved to be the heaviest shipping month, as well as the heaviest trading month of the season. After the market began to weaken under the pressure of liberal offerings there was a reaction against shipping as most shippers thought the price slump was temporary. While shipments from this time on were heavier than usual because of the exceptionally heavy crop it was because shippers were forced to unload their holdings and not because of any market demand.

In October it became apparent to shippers that they were paying too much for onions and buying from growers practically stopped for a short time and then started again at about the level of opening prices. Many crops changed hands and then as jobbing market prices tended to sag still further and there was no change to sell cars on a F.O.B. basis shippers stopped buying onions altogether. Very few people realized that the national onion crop was as heavy as it was until well after harvest. Shipments held at high levels and although much of the Massachusetts and Middlewestern stock was of fair to ordinary quality it nevertheless filled up the terminal markets and kept prices at low levels and very much in the buyers' favor.

The negligible f.o.b. demand during November and December forced shippers to consign and gradually brought about a lowering of their asking prices until by the middle of December shippers were quoting stock at approximately \$1.00 per 100 lb sack less than the September prices. Terminal markets were dull and draggy during this period and there was no f.o.b. buying worth mentioning. During January there was a moderate demand for a few weeks and f.o.b. selling became fairly active, much stock changing hands although there was very little advance in prices. After this little spurt in the market, buying ceased and consignments again became the rule with f.o.b. sales the exception. From that time on the asking prices gradually declined in sympathy with the weak terminal markets.

National shipments ran heavy even from the start of the season, and after the early fall months they were above the average of the last two seasons. The New York state crop was heavier than usual but it was not sufficient in itself to cause low prices. As with many other crops it is the national situation which governs. Had the national crop been short the heavy New York crop could have been marketed profitably.

One unusual feature of this season was the shortage of good red onions and the high prices they commanded. During January a number of cars of reds were sold f.o.b. at prices ranging from \$3.00 to \$3.35 per 100 lb sacks for good medium to large stock which was \$.50 - 1.00 higher than the price for yellows. The few cars of reds remaining in New York were cleaned up during the January market activity.

Quality

The quality was generally good to excellent. The season was favorable for harvesting operations and the crop was well matured and well dried so that it had excellent ^{keeping} quality. The size was good and the percentage of the larger sizes was high where the previous season it had been low.

Distribution

New York and Philadelphia are the leading markets for New York onions but New England towns, particularly Boston, bought heavily the past season. Very few cars went to Ohio markets or to Pittsburgh. Baltimore and Richmond took quite a number of cars. The distribution to the west was cut off by a heavy supply of middlewestern onions in local markets but this was equalized by the good market in New England.

Weekly Jobbing Range of New York State Yellow Onions in 100 lb sacks

And the Weekly F.O.B. Usual Terms Price Range Season 1923-24

(Prices are for No. 1 stock of all sizes)

WEEK ENDING	NEW YORK	PHILADELPHIA	FOB WESTERN NEW YORK
Sept. 23	\$3.00-3.85	\$3.25-4.15	\$3.25-3.50
" 30	3.00-3.85	3.00-3.65	3.25-3.30
Oct. 7	3.50-3.75	3.00-3.65	3.15-3.30
Oct. 14	3.00-3.40	2.85-3.65	3.25
" 21	2.50-3.25	2.50-3.25	No sales
" 28	2.50-3.60	2.75-3.35	2.75-3.25
Nov. 4	2.50-3.60	2.75-3.50	2.70-3.00
" 11	2.00-3.00	2.65-3.00	No sales
" 18	2.00-3.00	2.00-3.10	2.60-3.00
" 25	2.25-3.00	2.65-3.00	2.75-2.85
Dec. 2	2.50-3.00	2.50-2.90	No sales
" 9	2.50-3.00	2.75-3.00	No sales
" 23	2.00-2.50	2.15-2.75	No sales
" 30	2.00-2.50	2.00-2.25	2.35-2.50*
Jan. 6	2.25-2.55	2.50-2.65	No sales
" 13	2.40-2.80	2.75-3.00	2.10-2.65
" 20	2.25-2.60	2.40-2.90	2.25-2.75
Dec. 16	2.50-3.00	2.65-3.00	No Sales

WEEK ENDING.	NEW YORK	PHILADELPHIA	FOB WESTERN NEW YORK
Jan. 27	\$2.15-2.60	\$2.15-3.00	\$2.25-2.50
Feb. 3	2.25-2.75	1.90-2.75	2.00-2.75*
" 10	2.50-3.00	2.25-3.00	No sales
" 17	2.10-2.50	2.00-2.25	2.25-2.50*
" 24	1.90-2.50	2.25-2.75	2.00-2.50*
Mar. 2	1.75-2.75	2.00-2.65	2.00-2.40*
" 9	2.00-2.50	1.90-2.75	-----
" 16	1.75-2.65	1.85-2.75	-----
" 23	1.75-2.60	1.90-2.50	-----
" 30	1.50-2.40	1.50-2.00	-----

*Shippers quoting

Carlot Shipments of Onions-New York and United States

Week Ending	NEW YORK			UNITED STATES		
	1923-24	1922-23	1921-22	1923-24	1922-23	1921-22
Aug. 25	239	70	112	630	671	368
Sept. 1	178	92	102	563	873	501
" 8	141	54	90	620	776	681
" 15	199	47	163	976	976	900
" 22	254	57	131	994	1093	790
" 29	205	105	154	1191	1408	826
Oct. 6	300	83	97	1467	1337	659
" 13	265	99	96	1169	955	605
" 20	213	158	172	960	1308	697
" 27	178	160	160	984	1175	513
Nov. 3	234	76	73	1016	925	337
" 10	166	48	68	876	551	347
" 17	164	68	61	662	425	329
" 24	133	74	34	493	432	186
Dec. 1	90	61	50	332	343	285
" 8	137	65	60	434	443	293
" 15	154	81	58	489	453	282
" 22	95	58	38	398	341	180
" 29	77	48	39	325	296	219
Jan. 5	123	75	78	430	464	398
" 12	182	90	106	698	506	494
" 19	126	57	107	709	420	425
" 26	65	111	52	446	483	333
Feb. 2	101	82	90	564	435	366
" 9	96	72	48	508	364	293
" 16	92	43	37	629	278	219
" 23	58	70	46	505	400	231
Mar. 1	76	76	42	529	505	196
" 8	102	82	60	474	426	219
" 15	110	81	35	446	328	137
" 22	110	95	28	470	348	89
" 29	94	47	17	417	213	78

Onion Acreage in Leading States

STATE	A C R E A G E					
	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923	
Bermuda & Creole	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres
California	860	3,300	2,000	2,950	1,340	
Louisiana	970	1,080	1,010	1,100	1,100	
Texas	6,590	12,450	10,500	11,920	12,680	
TOTAL	8,420	16,830	13,510	15,970	15,120	
Domestic	:	:	:	:	:	
California	6,890	8,480	7,900	6,720	7,010	
Colorado	830	760	1,300	1,900	2,360	
Idaho	60	280	140	300	300	
Illinois	910	1,000	1,040	1,250	1,080	
Indiana	4,390	5,260	4,180	5,620	5,900	
Iowa	1,190	1,580	1,240	1,610	1,540	
Kentucky	1,000	900	1,000	1,000	1,000	
Massachusetts	4,400	4,850	4,500	4,560	3,360	
Michigan	1,620	1,440	1,350	1,750	1,840	
Minnesota	1,520	1,540	1,430	1,470	1,050	
New Jersey	2,380	2,610	2,380	2,360	2,290	
New York	8,560	8,570	7,280	7,740	7,390	
Ohio	5,590	5,960	5,080	5,680	5,700	
Oregon	760	880	870	880	600	
Pennsylvania	330	350	340	350	280	
Utah	120	120	120	250	400	
Virginia	870	950	1,120	1,320	1,290	
Washington	1,190	1,400	1,280	1,530	1,500	
Wisconsin	1,490	1,180	1,010	1,030	1,090	
TOTAL	44,100	48,110	43,560	47,320	45,980	
GRAND TOTAL	52,520	64,940	57,070	63,290	61,100	

Yield Per Acre in Leading States

STATE	YIELD					
	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923	
Bermuda & Creole	Bushels	Bushels	Bushels	Bushels	Bushels	
California	312	298	245	320	297	
Louisiana	160	158	206	300	106	
Texas	267	256	207	197	129	
TOTAL	259	253	213	227	142	

Yield Per Acre in Leading States (Cont'd)

STATES.	YIELD		PER	ACRE	
	1919	1920		1921	1922
	Bushels	Bushels	Bushels	Bushels	Bushels
<u>Domestic</u>					
California	375	325	225	250	300
Colorado	250	340	300	280	250
Idaho	400	485	470	460	425
Illinois	200	350	210	300	289
Indiana	200	398	265	413	276
Iowa	300	350	205	380	365
Kentucky	300	370	300	225	298
Massachusetts	340	450	280	275	345
Michigan	175	350	225	511	267
Minnesota	275	300	200	350	220
New Jersey	250	240	250	250	194
New York	265	340	300	270	418
Ohio	250	340	225	400	253
Oregon	300	370	300	300	295
Pennsylvania	3300	350	270	380	200
Utah	500	480	440	400	375
Virginia	250	320	280	225	254
Washington	400	410	300	320	450
Wisconsin	196	360	300	350	279
TOTAL	280	353	259	320	308
GRAND TOTAL	277	329	248	296	267

Total Production, Leading States

STATE	PRODUCTION		(000 omitted)		
	1919	1920		1922	1923
	Bushels	Bushels	Bushels	Bushels	Bushels
<u>Bermuda & Creole</u>					
California	268	983	490	944	398
Louisiana	155	171	203	330	117
Texas	1,760	3,187	2,174	2,348	1,636
TOTAL	2,183	4,341	2,372	3,622	2,151
<u>Domestic</u>					
California	2,584	2,756	1,778	1,680	2,103
Colorado	203	258	390	532	590
Idaho	24	136	66	138	128
Illinois	132	350	218	375	312
Indiana	873	2,093	1,108	2,321	1,628
Iowa	357	553	254	612	562
Kentucky	300	333	300	225	298

STATE	PRODUCTION (000 omitted)				
	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923
Domestic (Cont'd)	Bushels	Bushels	Bushels	Bushels	Bushels
Massachusetts	1,496	2,182	1,260	1,254	1,159
Michigan	284	504	304	894	491
Minnesota	418	462	286	514	231
New Jersey	595	626	595	590	444
New York	2,268	2,914	2,184	2,090	3,089
Ohio	1,393	2,026	1,143	2,272	1,442
Oregon	223	326	261	264	177
Pennsylvania	99	122	92	133	56
Utah	60	58	53	100	150
Virginia	213	304	314	297	328
Washington	476	574	384	490	675
Wisconsin	292	425	303	360	304
TOTAL	12,365	17,002	11,293	15,141	14,167
GRAND TOTAL	14,548	21,343	14,165	18,763	16,318

Onions; Carlot shipments by states of origin 1919-20
to 1923-1924

State	1919-20	1920-21	1921-22	1922-23	1923-24
Massachusetts	2,835	3,834	2,224	1,912	2,453
New York	2,702	3,089	2,891	2,812	5,315
New Jersey	634	635	427	479	336
Virginia	133	181	140	371	274
Ohio	1,913	3,212	1,743	4,492	2,710
Indiana	1,005	3,448	1,834	4,683	4,585
Illinois	123	360	253	487	374
Michigan	224	795	427	1,867	1,172
Wisconsin	95	406	89	330	266
Minnesota	439	276	172	500	186
Iowa	488	870	411	918	882
Kentucky	339	303	361	257	262
Louisiana	101	106	79	91	81
Texas	2,876	5,086	4,208	4,629	3,027
Colorado	207	134	443	651	920
Washington	596	790	619	765	1,110
Oregon	202	19	347	263	382
California N.D.	4,887	3,169	2,657	2,376	3,473
" S.D.	522	1,233	928	1,266	755
All others	228	277	434	609	679
TOTAL	20,549	28,223	20,707	29,758	29,242

Shipments by Loading States July 1923 Through April 1924.

COUNTY	STATION	JUL	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	TOTAL
Chattaraugus	Conewango Sta.	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	-	-	-	3
Cayuga	Crocketts	-	-	-	-	1	-	5	4	-	-	10
	Montezuma	-	-	-	-	7	-	-	1	-	-	8
	Port Byron	-	-	-	5	11	2	-	6	1	-	15
	Sterling Sta.	-	-	-	12	3	-	-	-	2	1	18
	Total	-	-	-	17	12	2	5	11	3	1	51
Genessee	Batavia	-	-	-	-	1	1	5	1	-	-	12
	Byron	-	-	-	-	3	4	-	-	5	1	15
	East Bethany	-	-	-	-	-	-	11	11	22	4	48
	Elba	-	-	98	241	87	16	32	17	10	-	501
	Wheatville	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
	Total	-	-	98	244	92	17	48	35	37	6	577
Livingston	Groveland	-	-	-	-	5	2	-	-	-	-	7
	South Lima	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	1	-	2	8
	Total	-	-	-	-	5	5	2	-	1	-	15
Madison	Ganastota	-	139	120	281	147	136	88	41	33	9	994
	North Chittenango	15	8	49	66	45	18	3	-	1	-	205
	Total	-	154	128	330	213	181	106	44	33	10	1199
Monroe	Fairport	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	4
	Hilton	-	-	-	-	4	4	-	-	2	-	10
	Rochester	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	3
	Webster	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	3	4
	Total	-	-	3	2	1	4	4	1	2	4	21
Niagara	Lockport	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
	Middleport	-	-	-	-	-	1	11	3	6	23	44
	Total	-	-	-	-	-	1	11	3	7	23	45
Oneida	Rome	-	1	-	21	6	4	5	15	20	16	98
	Verona Sta.	-	-	-	2	3	3	3	-	-	-	11
	Total	-	1	-	23	9	7	8	15	20	16	109
Onondaga	East Syracuse	-	-	-	9	7	8	1	-	-	-	25
	Syracuse	-	-	-	8	22	1	2	11	5	59	108
	Woodward	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
	Total	-	-	-	17	30	9	3	11	5	59	134
Ontario	Canandaigua	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
	Holcomb	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2
	Manchester	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2
	Mertensia	-	-	-	1	2	-	2	-	-	-	5
	Victor	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
	Total	-	-	-	1	7	-	2	1	-	-	11

COUNTY	STATION	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	TOTAL
Orange	Chester	3	4	1	1	-	1	1	0	1	-	12
	Florida	7	240	277	130	84	121	150	65	112	24	1210
	Johnson	-	-	6	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	10
	New Hampton	-	3	60	42	12	1	-	2	4	-	124
	New Milford	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
	Orange Farm	6	58	58	56	44	11	20	8	7	-	268
	Pine Island	-	93	107	53	26	22	21	8	10	12	356
	Port Jervis	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
	Slate Hill	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
	Total	16	403	510	289	167	156	192	83	134	35	1985
Orleans	Albion	-	-	-	3	-	6	20	18	41	25	113
	Fancher	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
	Holley	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	-	4
	Medina	-	-	1	1	-	-	3	-	-	3	8
	Total	-	-	1	4	-	6	24	21	42	28	126
Oswego	Central Square	-	-	-	-	13	6	1	-	-	-	20
	Fulton	-	-	-	44	32	15	12	10	28	9	150
	Furniss	-	-	-	7	1	-	11	-	-	10	29
	Hannibal	-	-	-	-	2	4	-	-	-	-	6
	Oswego	-	-	-	2	8	2	3	4	16	93	128
	Parish	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	2
	Minetto	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	2
	W. Monroe	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	2
	Total	-	-	-	53	56	30	29	15	44	112	339
Seneca	Waterloo	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Steuben	Arkport	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
	Bath	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	1	1	-	4
	Total	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	1	1	1	5
Wayne	Clyde	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	5	-	8
	East Williamson	-	-	6	6	-	-	9	7	-	-	28
	Fruitland	-	-	3	3	2	-	-	-	-	-	8
	Lyons	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	16	16
	Macedon	-	-	2	3	-	2	5	-	-	-	12
	Marion	-	-	13	10	4	16	9	12	8	5	77
	Newark	-	-	10	5	3	4	4	3	10	3	42
	North Macedon	-	-	1	16	2	-	-	-	-	-	19
	North Norwich	-	-	9	2	-	3	7	6	2	-	29
	North Rose	-	-	-	-	5	12	14	14	-	6	51
	Ontario	-	-	5	2	1	-	2	-	-	11	21
	Palmyra	-	-	-	4	1	-	-	-	-	-	5
	Red Creek	-	-	-	7	3	1	-	-	-	5	16
	Savannah	-	-	31	40	6	-	3	5	2	-	87
	Sodus	-	-	-	9	2	9	10	12	11	2	55
	Sodus Center	-	-	-	-	1	6	10	3	4	1	25
	Sodus Point	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	3	9	8	23

COUNTY	STATION	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	TOTAL
Wayne (cont.)												
	Walworth	-	-	3	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	7
	Williamson	-	2	9	2	4	29	20	11	7	13	97
	Walcott	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	8	22	2	39
	Waynepoint	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	2
	Total	-	2	92	114	34	82	104	86	81	72	667
Wyoming	Perry	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
GRAND TOTAL		16	560	832	1103	636	498	538	328	410	368	5289

PRIMARY DESTINATIONS OF WESTERN AND CENTRAL NEW YORK ONIONS

SEPTEMBER 28-MARCH 1

CONNECTICUT		MASSACHUSETTS		NEW JERSEY	
Bridgeport	11	Boston	120	Cranberry	3
Danbury	1	Brockton	6	Bayonne	1
Hartford	5	Fitchburg	3	Elizabeth	2
Norwich	1	Gloucester	1	Hazelwood	1
New London	2	Hyannis	1	Hoboken	1
New Haven	1	Lynn	2	New Brunswick	3
Waterbury	2	Lawrence	4	Newark	35
Total	40	Lowell	1	Passaic	1
		Middleboro	1	Plainfield	1
<u>GEORGIA</u>		New Bedford	6	Jersey City	7
Atlanta	2	North Adams	1	Rutherford	1
Augusta	1	Pittsfield	3	Weehawken	21
	3	Springfield	3	Total	77
		So. Bridge	1		
<u>KENTUCKY</u>		Worcester	14	<u>NEW YORK</u>	
Lexington	1	Watuppa	6	Albany	16
		Taunton	2	Binghamton	16
<u>MAINE</u>		Total	175	Buffalo	96
Auburn	2			Brocton	2
Bangor	1	<u>MICHIGAN</u>		Catskill	1
Lewiston	1	Detroit	3	Cortland	6
Portland	13			E. Buffalo	1
Saco	1	<u>MISSOURI</u>		Elmira	8
Total	18	St. Louis	3	Glensfalls	6
				Gloversville	1
<u>MARYLAND</u>		<u>NEW HAMPSHIRE</u>		Ithaca	3
Baltimore	76	Laconia	1	Jamestown	2
Cumberland	4	Manchester	7	Little Falls	1
Hagerstown	2	Nashua	1	Lyons	1
Salisbury	1	Rochester	1	Mortimer	2
Total	83	Total	10	Mertensia	5

SEPTEMBER 28-MARCH 1

NEW YORK

Middletown	1
Manchester	2
Massena Springs	1
Niagra Falls	1
Newark	11
North Rose	10
New York	417
Ogdensburg	3
Olean	2
Oneonta	4
Oswego	39
Rochester	33
Syracuse	35
Sodus	2
Saranac Lake	3
So. Lima	5
Schenectady	6
Saratoga	2
Saratoga Spgs.	1
Troy	9
Utica	4
Valley Stream	1
Williamson	1
Watertown	5
Webster	— 1
Total	766

NORTH CAROLINA

Charlotte	1
Gastonia	1
Greensboro	2
Hamlet	1
Raleigh	1
Winston Salem	4
Total	10

OHIO

Akron	2
Berwick	1
Cleveland	7
Columbus	2
Middletown	1
Toledo	— 1
Total	14

PENNSYLVANIA

Altoona	4
Allentown	3
Ansonia	1
Bedford	1
Du Bois	1
Erie	3
Hazleton	8
Greensburg	1
Jersey Shore	1
Johnstown	6
Lehighton	2
Lansford	1
Makeneey City	2
Morristown	1
Pittsfield	1
Pittsburgh	38
Pottsville	1
Pittston	2
Philadelphia	203
Reading	1
Scranton	37
Sunbury	1
Shenandoah	3
Shamokin	1
Wilkes-Barre	26
Williamsburg	1
Williamsport	2
Total	353

SOUTH CAROLINA

Charleston	1
Columbia	3
Greenville	2
Spartansburg	— 3
Total	9

VIRGINIA

Danville	1
Norfolk	2
Richmond	— 26
Total	29

WASHINGTON D C

7

WEST VIRGINIA

Charleston	1
Martinsburg	1
Morgantown	1
Wheeling	— 1
Total	4

WISCONSIN

Milwaukee	1
UNKNOWN	384

GRAND TOTAL 2056

Total Destinations by Month

Sept	163
Oct	466
Nov	255
Dec	592
Jan	342
Feb	238